

To: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]
From: Quirarte-Ortiz, Cecilia
Sent: Fri 4/18/2014 9:39:59 PM
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 4/18/14

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From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 4:17 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 4/18/14

OPA Daily Digest for 4/18/14

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo) – 4/10/14: Question on testing of ball fields. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Mayor Conrad Bowers (Mo) – 4/10/14: Question on testing of ball fields. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

KCPT-TV, Kansas City – Randy Mason – 4/18/14: Questions about Earth Day event at Sprint. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

KMOX Radio, St. Louis – Michael Calhoun – 4/18/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo.
Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

St. Louis American – Rebecca Reavis – 4/18/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo.
Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KMUW Public Radio, Wichita – Sean Sandefur – 4/18/14: Questions about PCE contamination from a dry cleaning site in Wichita. Provided background on EPA's MCLs for PCE and referred reporter to KDHE, which is working the site. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Bridgeton Landfill owners reach settlement, will pay \$6.8M - 4/17/14 - Residents of more than 400 homes in the vicinity of the Bridgeton Landfill will receive a settlement of more than \$6.8 million for the loss of enjoyment of their homes due to a smell, according to a press release.
<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/04/17/bridgeton-landfill-settlement-68-million-homeowners-odor-lawsuit/7833819/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Bridgeton landfill owners to pay nearby residents \$6.8 million in lawsuit over stink - 4/17/14 - Residents who live in the 400 homes closest to the smoldering Bridgeton Landfill will be compensated thousands of dollars for enduring foul odors from the site in an agreement reached Thursday in a lawsuit against the landfill's owners. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/bridgeton-landfill-owners-will-pay-million-to-nearby-residents-in/article_9d74a35a-4524-5a86-834c-db5e698271e3.html

St. Louis Public Radio - Bridgeton Landfill Owner To Pay Almost \$7 Million To Neighboring Homeowners - 4/17/14 - The owner of the Bridgeton Landfill has agreed to pay almost \$6.9 million to about 400 nearby homeowners who had joined a suit contending that the landfill's odors had damaged their property values.
<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/bridgeton-landfill-owner-pay-almost-7-million-neighboring-homeowners>

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Burning Landfill Odor Suit Settled - 4/17/14 - Republic Services announced it has agreed to pay residents of more than 400 homes in the area of the landfill a total of \$6.8 million. The case was handled by Alton attorney Ted Gianaris whose firm will receive one-fourth of the payment with the rest going to residents. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/04/17/burning-landfill-odor-suit-settled/>

KMOV Ch. 4 St. Louis - Residents near Bridgeton Landfill to divide up millions after lawsuit is settled - 4/17/14 - Residents who live near the Bridgeton Landfill will receive millions of dollars after they reached a

settlement with the landfill's owner, Republic Services. <http://www.kmov.com/news/mobile/Residents-near-Bridgeton-Landfill-to-divide-up-millions-after-lawsuit-is-settled.html>

KTVI Ch. 2 St. Louis - Settlement reached in suit over Bridgeton Landfill - 4/17/14 - Residents living near the Bridgeton Landfill will soon be receiving news about a class action lawsuit settlement. The average resident will be offered a little more than \$12,000. The offers vary depending on where residents live. <http://fox2now.com/2014/04/17/settlement-reached-in-suit-over-bridgeton-landfill/>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Air quality health advisory issued because of smoke - 4/18/14 - Because of high levels of smoke from agricultural burning in the Midwest, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department issued a health advisory Friday morning, noting that the poor air quality will continue this weekend. http://journalstar.com/news/local/air-quality-health-advisory-issued-because-of-smoke/article_09e365aa-7a34-514f-b152-377734409f6c.html

Public News Service - Report: 1 in 10 MO Kids Attends School Near Chemical Facility - One in 10 Missouri children spends several hours each weekday in the shadow of a potentially dangerous chemical facility, according to a new report by the Center for Effective Government. <http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-04-18/health-issues/report-1-in-10-mo-kids-attends-school-near-chemical-facility/a38835-1#sthash.nacENISc.dpuf>

Associated Press - In appeals court decision, environmental groups lose challenge to EPA cement standard | Appeals court rejects challenge on cement plants - 4/18/14 - A federal appeals court has turned aside a challenge by environmental groups to an air pollution standard for cement plants. In a 3-0 decision, the appeals court said the emissions-related provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency standard are permissible. <http://www.newser.com/article/50a0cdf7dcd44294897350290bae8ff5/in-appeals-court-decision-environmental-groups-lose-challenge-to-epa-cement-standard.html>

Wichita Eagle - City staff continues to explore role of aquifer project - 4/17/14 - Public works officials are weighing how to best utilize the city's \$244 million aquifer storage and recovery project – if the City Council gives it a prominent role in Wichita's water future. <http://www.kansas.com/2014/04/17/3409359/city-staff-continues-to-explore.html>

White House (release) - Building on Progress – Supporting Solar Deployment and Jobs - 4/17/14 - To advance our nation's energy and climate goals, the United States must be a leader in innovating and deploying clean energy. Solar is a vital component of the Administration's all-of the above strategy. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/17/fact-sheet-building-progress-supporting-solar-deployment-and-jobs>

Kansas City Business Journal - Guest Column: Celebrate KC's environmental leaders on Earth Day - 4/17/14 - Every year on April 22, Americans celebrate Earth Day. On this 45th year of celebrating our environment, I want to

commend good Kansas City-area stewards. EPA is highlighting Sprint, the Kansas City Chiefs, University of Missouri-Kansas City and others for cutting the volume of landfilled waste through innovative recycling and food-recovery programs. <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/print-edition/2014/04/18/guest-column-celebrate-kc-s-environmental-leaders.html>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Des Moines Register - GAO chides EPA for late release of renewable fuels standard - 4/17/14 - The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office said in a report that the federal agency responsible for overseeing the country's renewable fuels mandate needs to do a better job of releasing its annual blending level requirements on time. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/04/17/gao-epa-ethanol/7837725/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

St. Louis Business Journal - Bridgeton Landfill agrees to pay \$7 million in class action suit - 4/17/14 - The Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill agreed on Thursday to pay a settlement of \$6.9 million in a class-action lawsuit brought against it by residents who live nearby.

The plaintiffs' attorneys will receive 25 percent of the payment, and the balance will be shared among more than 400 residences near the site. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2014/04/17/bridgeton-landfill-agrees-to-pay-7-million-in.html>

KCCI - These 2 Iowa schools just saved \$60,700 in energy last year - 4/17/14 - Two Des Moines schools have landed on a national top 10 list of schools saving the most on energy last year. <http://www.kcci.com/news/these-2-iowa-schools-just-saved-60700-in-energy-last-year/25536984>

Greenwire - 4.6M children attend class near large chemical plants -- report - 4/17/14 - Millions of U.S. children attend almost 10,000 schools that are within 1 mile of a large chemical facility, according to a report released yesterday by the advocacy group Center for Effective Government. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998076/>

Brownfield Ag News - Senators question methane reduction plan (+audio) - 4/17/14 - A group of U.S. Senators, including Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley, is questioning the Obama Administration's plan to reduce methane emissions from cattle. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/04/17/senators-question-methane-reduction-plan/>

Brownfield Ag News - EPA proposal could put electric supplies in danger - 4/17/14 - Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association says the proposed regulations would remove coal-fired electricity generation from the mix of options that create a reliable electric grid. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/04/17/epa-proposal-put-electric-supplies-danger/>

New York Times - Column: Salvation Gets Cheap - 4/18/14 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which pools the efforts of scientists around the globe, has begun releasing draft chapters from its latest assessment, and, for the most part, the reading is as grim as you might expect.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/18/opinion/krugman-salvation-gets-cheap.html>

Christian Science Monitor - Scientists find an 'ugly duckling' to convert waste heat to electricity - 4/17/14 -

An overlooked material, relatively cheap and available, promises to help scientists develop technologies that capture waste heat and convert it to electricity more efficiently. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2014/0417/Scientists-find-an-ugly-duckling-to-convert-waste-heat-to-electricity>

Platts - FERC officials raise concerns over coal shipments in US' Upper Midwest - 4/17/14 - Top US energy regulators are raising concerns about how supply disruptions of coal shipments in the Upper Midwest and elsewhere could create challenges for the electricity sector, particularly as a number of plants are set to retire in coming years.

<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/coal/washington/ferc-officials-raise-concerns-over-coal-shipments-21505390>

McClatchy News - Old-school coal is making a comeback - 4/17/14 - Coal, the former king of American energy, is making a comeback after being left for dead in favor of cleaner-burning natural gas.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/04/17/224755/old-school-coal-is-making-a-comeback.html>

The Hill (blog) - EPA delays rule on power plant cooling water - 4/17/14 - The Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) said it will miss by a month its deadline to issue a regulation to minimize the impact of industrial and power plant water cooling structures on fish populations. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/203782-epa-delays-rule-on-power-plant-cooling-water>

Bloomberg - EPA Rule to Limit Fish Kills at Plants Delayed Until May - 4/17/14 - The Environmental

Protection Agency said it will delay for a month issuing a rule to shield fish from being killed when electric utilities and factories use water for cooling machinery. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-04-17/epa-rule-to-limit-fish-kills-at-plants-delayed-until-may.html>

Minneapolis Star-Tribune - Older crude oil tankers may end up on U.S. rails - 4/17/14 - BNSF Railway

officials have told federal regulators they're concerned that older, less-robust tank cars will end up on U.S. oil trains because of Canadian railroad pricing policies discouraging them.

<http://www.startribune.com/business/255734471.html>

National Journal - The Fracking Industry Faces Its Climate Demon - 4/17/14 - To preserve its climate

credentials, the natural-gas industry has to tame a tricky menace: methane. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/new->

[energy-paradigm/the-fracking-industry-faces-its-climate-demon-20140417](#)

SNL - Obama administration sheds light on new solar-boosting initiatives - 4/17/14 - The solar industry enjoyed a moment in the sun April 17 during a daylong White House event at which Obama administration officials, state regulators and industry players announced a grab bag of initiatives to increase U.S. deployment of solar panels. <http://www.snl.com/InteractiveX/Article.aspx?cdid=A-27809350-10038>

Environmental News Network - Scenario development yields environmental success story - 4/17/14 - With so much scenario modeling currently available, we are able to better predict our future and anticipate the outcomes of various habits and activities. While invaluable in the area of prediction, how has that information transformed our environmental status? <http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/47299>

Clean Technica - 80% Of US Wind Power In 2013 Generated By 12 States - 4/18/14 - In 2013, 12 states (including Iowa and Kansas) accounted for 80% of U.S. wind-generated electricity, according to preliminary generation data released in EIA's March Electric Power Monthly report.

<http://cleantechnica.com/2014/04/18/80-us-wind-power-2013-generated-12-states/>

Kansas City Star - Prairie chickens arrive in Missouri from Nebraska - 4/17/14 - The Missouri Department of Conservation says a group of prairie chickens has been brought to the state from Nebraska. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/04/17/4965251/prairie-chickens-arrive-in-missouri.html>

Wichita Eagle - Kansas oil production jumps; natural gas continues decline - 4/17/14 - Oil production in Kansas took another leap in 2013, rising 7.2 percent from the year before, while natural gas production in the state continued its long slide, according to final figures compiled by the Kansas Geological Survey. <http://www.kansas.com/2014/04/17/3410352/kansas-oil-production-jumps-natural.html>

Greenwire - Major Obama proposal doesn't change ag rules -- so why are farm groups so worried? - 4/17/14 - Today, farmers and ranchers can freely do any number of things on their property affecting rivers, creeks and wetlands that no other sector could undertake without going to the federal government for permission. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998074/>

Greenwire - Industries lobby White House to ease up on waste rule - 4/17/14 - Heavyweight industry groups are lobbying the White House to scale back the administration's plans to overhaul a controversial George W. Bush-era hazardous waste regulation. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998081/>

Greenwire - Study outlines minorities' dramatically higher exposure to NO2 - 4/17/14 - Americans of color are exposed to 38 percent more nitrogen dioxide (NO2) outdoor air pollution than white people, according to a new study that finds the differences persist even among income levels.
<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998080/>

Greenwire - Fossil fuels states band together on existing power plant rule - 4/17/14 - Fossil fuels states met yesterday and today in Bismarck, N.D., to swap ideas about how to protect their states' economic and energy interests from what they fear could be the harmful effects of U.S. EPA's upcoming existing power plant carbon dioxide rule. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998084/>

Greenwire - TransCanada strikes a positive note as Canadian premier tangles with Carter - 4/17/14 - TransCanada Corp. today linked arms with Missouri's Democratic attorney general and a Democratic-aligned union to tout a program that positions military veterans for possible construction employment on Keystone XL.
<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998082/>

Greenwire - White House highlights industry growth, pledges additional assistance - 4/17/14 - The White House this morning convened a summit designed to tout the dramatic growth in solar energy deployments and reductions in the technology's costs in the United States over the last several years, pledging additional government assistance to further expand the industry. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998064/>

Greenwire - Climate report shoutout for nuclear power highlights lack of green push in U.S. - 4/17/14 - Leaders of the country's largest environmental groups say they're not about to push for the construction of new nuclear reactors in the United States anytime soon -- even if a high-profile climate report out this week points to the power source as a critical means of tackling climate change. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059998073/>

E&E News PM - Texas Dem urges EPA not to rush toward methane rules - 4/17/14 - A leading oil patch Democrat expressed concern today that U.S. EPA appears poised to regulate petroleum-sector methane emissions as part of its climate change offensive. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059998102/>

Chemical & Engineering News - Laying Out The Attainable - 4/17/14 - Holding human-caused global warming to an internationally agreed-on level is still possible, but it will require large-scale technological shifts, says a United Nations report released on April 13. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/i16/Laying-Attainable.html>

Fox News - Opinion: Will EPA water grab tip US back into recession? - 4/18/14 - Quietly last month -- in the midst of Ukraine, the search for flight MH 370, David Letterman's retirement and the final hours of March Madness -- Washington witnessed a ruling that will affect all of our lives: the redefinition of water under the Clean Water Act. <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/04/18/will-epa-water-grab-tip-us-back-into-recession/>

The Blaze (blog) - There's 'No Government-Wide Mechanism' to Determine How Much Federal Environmental Assessments Actually Cost - 4/16/14 - How much does it cost taxpayers for the federal government to do environmental assessments? And what's the return on that cost? The answer is there's not enough information to evaluate the cost and benefit of much of the federal government's environmental evaluations. <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/04/16/theres-no-government-wide-mechanism-to-determine-how-much-federal-environmental-assessments-actually-cost/>

Forbes - "King Coal" Is Dying; Prince Oil & Gas Is Next - 4/18/14 - Now that the environmentalist lobby, working in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency – which is largely populated by folks who came out of these same environmental organizations – has almost succeeded in killing the nation's coal industry for all intents and purposes, it is obvious that truer words were never spoken. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidblackmon/2014/04/18/king-coal-is-dying-prince-oil-gas-is-next/>

Forbes - An In-Depth Look At The Future Of American Energy And How We Get There - 4/18/14 - Imagine a world where homes not only run on clean electricity but also generate, store, and sell it. A world where power companies get paid for conserving energy, not just producing it. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/edfenergyexchange/2014/04/18/an-in-depth-look-at-the-future-of-american-energy-and-how-we-get-there/>

Forbes - Gas Makes Wind Affordable Even Without Tax Credit: Alliant CEO - 4/18/14 - Cheap natural gas is making wind energy affordable, even without a federal tax credit, the chief executive officer of Alliant Energy said in Chicago Wednesday. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcMahon/2014/04/18/gas-makes-wind-affordable-even-without-tax-credit-alliant-ceo/>

Forbes - Some Winners And Losers As Obama's EPA Preps Carbon Crackdown - 4/17/14 - By early June, the EPA is set to announce its proposals for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. Final regs won't be imposed until states come up with their own plans to do the EPA's bidding, but it's worth starting to think about the winners and losers of anti-carbon laws. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2014/04/17/some-winners-and-losers-as-obamas-epa-preps-carbon-crackdown/>

BNA - Preproduction Gas Wells Unexpected Source of Methane Emissions, Study Finds - 4/17/14 - The detection of methane at levels far higher than expected in the air above seven Pennsylvania shale gas wells prior to hydraulic fracturing illustrates the need for improved methods of measuring such emissions, according to a new study. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45032900&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9c9a9p1&split=0

BNA - FERC Pushes Electric Industry to Increase Renewable Generation on Bulk Power Grid - 4/17/14 - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission continued its push to integrate renewable energy generation onto the

electric grid with action April 17 on four compliance filings for a utility and three grid operators.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45032929&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9e8y7e3&split=0

BNB - Renewable Fuel Groups Oppose Motion To Sever Issues in Blending Mandate Lawsuit - 4/17/14 -

Renewable fuel producers are challenging a motion filed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the petroleum industry that asks a federal appeals court to sever and hold in abeyance some challenges to the 2013 renewable fuel standard.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45032903&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9d8r9p1&split=0

BNB - 13 Attorneys General Oppose State Law Preemption Provisions in House TSCA Bill - 4/17/14 -

The attorneys general of 13 states (including Iowa) sent a letter to the chairman and ranking member of a House subcommittee April 17, saying the preemption provisions in the draft Chemicals in Commerce Act would effectively eliminate state authority to regulate the manufacture and use of toxic chemicals.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45032910&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9d9q7t6&split=0

BNB - EPA Plans Forum to Discuss Implications Of Wastewater Blending, Seeks Experts, Data - 4/17/14 -

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to hold a public forum in June to discuss the public health implications of allowing discharges of blended wastewater into U.S. waters during torrential downpours.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45032908&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9d9h8g1&split=0

BNB - New Nebraska Law Creates Sustainability Fund to Help State Manage Water Supplies - 4/17/14 -

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman (R) signed legislation, L.B. 1098, establishing administrative and governance provisions for a newly created Water Sustainability Fund and restructuring the state Natural Resources Commission to administer the fund.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45032912&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9d9t5a5&split=0

BNB - Litigating the Clean Air Act: Preemption of State Emissions Torts - 4/17/14 - Several new cases address whether the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) preempts state tort claims filed against factories, oil and gas operations, power plants and other so-called “stationary sources” of emissions.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45032899&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8z2p5k7&split=0

Inside EPA - Environmentalists End Bid For Refinery Climate NSPS As EPA Delays Rule - 4/17/14 -

Environmentalists are informally dropping their push for EPA to set a first-time greenhouse gas (GHG) standard for refineries and will not enforce a settlement committing the agency to issue a rule.

<http://insideepa.com/201404172467933/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/environmentalists-end-bid-for-refinery-climate-nsps-as-epa-delays-rule/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Lowe's Lead Paint Rule Settlement May Set Novel EPA Enforcement Model - 4/17/14 - EPA is

touting an enforcement settlement in which retail giant Lowe's will help the agency enforce its lead renovation, repair and painting (LRRP) rule with contractors the company hires, providing a model in which a third party assists the agency enforce its regulations as it cuts enforcement actions due to budget constraints.

<http://insideepa.com/201404172467930/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/lowes-lead-paint-rule-settlement-may-set-novel-epa-enforcement-model/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Draft DOE Loan Program Signals New Focus On Energy Efficiency Projects - 4/17/14 - A draft Department of Energy (DOE) loan guarantee solicitation for low-carbon energy projects appears to signal a new Obama administration focus on promoting energy efficiency and smaller-scale renewable energy developments.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201404172467928/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/draft-doe-loan-program-signals-new-focus-on-energy-efficiency-projects/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - States Concede In Fight On EPA Water Funding Pilot But Seek 'Refusal Right' - 4/17/14 - State opponents of a novel EPA water infrastructure funding pilot are conceding that they are not likely to block Congress from creating the program in a pending Army Corps of Engineers authorization bill but they are urging lawmakers to preserve states' role in the funding process, including by requiring municipalities to give states a novel "right of first refusal" before seeking new project financing. <http://insideepa.com/201404182468039/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/states-concede-in-fight-on-epa-water-funding-pilot-but-seek-refusal-right/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - D.C. Circuit Scraps Affirmative Defense, Forcing EPA To Revise Air Rules - 4/18/14 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has scrapped EPA's use of a novel "affirmative defense" in a cement air toxics rule that exempted emissions spikes due to equipment malfunctions from Clean Air Act penalties, which could force the agency to overhaul several other regulations that included the contested defense.

<http://insideepa.com/201404182468031/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/dc-circuit-scraps-affirmative-defense-forcing-epa-to-revise-air-rules/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

4/21/14 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Luetta Flournoy, 7653

4/22/14 – Sprint WasteWise Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

4/22/14 – Interview with KSHB-TV, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

4/26/14 - Family/Earth Day, Regional Office. Contact Karen Flournoy, 7782

4/29/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Washburn University, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

4/30/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

4/30/14 – Westar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Rebecca Weber, 7487

5/1/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

5/1/14 – Meet with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director, Richard Fordyce, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

5/5-6/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

5/12/14 – Meet with Iowa Committee for Community Improvement (ICCI) Representatives, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

5/12-13/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/5/14 – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

4/21/14 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Luetta Flournoy, 7653

4/26/14 - Family/Earth Day, Regional Office. Contact Karen Flournoy, 7782.

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

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RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

4/25/14 – Delaware Ridge Elementary School Earth Day Event, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Althea Moses, 7649

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy School Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

4/28-5/2/14 - Tribal Operator Certification Training and Testing provided by Indian Health Service and EPA, Sac & Fox of Missouri and Iowa, Reserve, Kan. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

4/28-5/4/14 – Toxic Substances and Control Act Case Development to EPA Regions 1-4 Case Management Officers, Washington, DC. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

5/1/14 – Meet with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director, Richard Fordyce, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

5/5-8/14 – Environmental Leaders Institute State / Tribal / EPA Training Workshop, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

5/12/14 – Meet with ICCI Representatives, Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts: Dave Cozad, 7587, Karen Flournoy, 7782

5/12-16/14 – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886

Kansas City Business Journal

Guest Column: Celebrate KC's environmental leaders on Earth Day

By Karl Brooks - 4/18/14

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Every year on April 22, Americans celebrate Earth Day. On this 45th year of celebrating our environment, I want to

commend good Kansas City-area stewards. EPA is highlighting Sprint, the Kansas City Chiefs, University of Missouri-Kansas City and others for cutting the volume of landfilled waste through innovative recycling and food-recovery programs.

Each year, Americans waste 33 million tons of food, enough to fill a football stadium every day. Food makes up 21 percent of what we toss as trash, costing us an estimated \$100 billion in disposal fees and over-buying excess food. Food decomposing in landfills becomes a significant source of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases.

Sprint has made significant strides in protecting the environment through food-recovery efforts, recycling, waste reduction and environmentally preferable purchasing. Since 2010, Sprint has diverted more than 74,000 tons of useful material from landfills.

Food waste from the cafeterias and coffee shops on Sprint's headquarters campus in Overland Park is composted. Special bins and biodegradable liners are used by staff to collect the food waste. These materials are picked up and taken to a local composting farm run by Missouri Organics. Compostable waste from breakrooms at the headquarters facility also goes to Missouri Organics.

Paper napkins go in the food-waste collection along with paper cups. Even organic landscape waste from Sprint's campus is captured for composting.

UMKC Dining Services uses cage-free eggs, biodegradable cups, 100 percent recycled napkins, compostable straws, bulk condiments and no-rinse dishwashing products. In UMKC's tray-less cafeteria, Fightin' Kangaroos eat many locally grown foods, practice organic composting and recycle more than 500 pounds of cardboard every week at the University Center alone.

Our hometown Chiefs also conserve resources by encouraging fans to recycle. In 2013, the Chiefs diverted 386 tons of waste from landfills through various recycling and sustainability efforts. The team composted 135 tons of food waste and other compostable materials. The Chiefs also recycled 34 tons of plastic, 7 tons of stadium seats, 54 tons of glass and 23 tons of cardboard, keeping those materials out of area landfills. In addition, the team donated 6 tons of salvageable food through food-recovery programs.

The Chiefs are hosting the Extra Yard for the Environment recycling drive for Kansas City-area residents on Saturday, May 3, at Arrowhead Stadium.

No single action by a company, club or university is enough to protect our home. It takes a community, which is why local team efforts — led by employees at Sprint, the Chiefs, UMKC, the city of Kansas City, Hallmark Cards, Johnson County Community College and others — are so important. Together, we are leaving our kids a cleaner, healthier community.

Earth Day signifies a time for us all to renew our commitment to make real progress in the great cause of protecting America's environment.

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GAO chides EPA for late release of renewable fuels standard

By Christopher Doering - 4:42 p.m. CDT April 17, 2014

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/04/17/gao-epa-ethanol/7837725/>

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office said in a report that the federal agency responsible for overseeing the country's renewable fuels mandate needs to do a better job of releasing its annual blending level requirements on time.

In a report, the GAO said the Environmental Protection Agency should find the reasons for the delays and put in place a plan to ensure the Renewable Fuel Standard is issued on time.

The nonpartisan agency said the EPA has missed a statutory deadline, Nov. 30, to issue annual blending levels under the Renewable Fuel Standard since 2009. At the same time, the EPA has not worked to identify these causes or find ways to prevent the delays.

"A late RFS contributes to industry uncertainty, which can increase costs because industry cannot plan and budget effectively, according to some stakeholders," the GAO said.

The EPA proposed in November reducing how much ethanol must be blended into the country's gasoline supply this year. A final rule is expected in the next few months.

The measure would cut the fuel requirement in 2014 to 15.2 billion gallons of ethanol and other biofuels, 3 billion gallons less than Congress required in a 2007 law. It would mark the first-ever drop in the Renewable Fuel Standard that requires refiners to blend ever increasing amounts of biofuels into the nation's gasoline supply through 2022.